



Arizona Commerce Authority Executive Order

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer
2:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 29, 2010
Second Floor Conference Room

Good afternoon.

When the history of Arizona is written, I do believe that today will deserve special mention.

I say that, because today I'm introducing a 21st Century approach to advance Arizona's economy.

Today, the Arizona Commerce Department begins to fade away, and, taking its place, is an Authority that is more aggressive and more focused -- transcending political whims with a comprehensive approach that insists on results.

By Executive Order today, I am establishing the Arizona Commerce Authority and its board focused on growing and diversifying Arizona's economy and creating quality jobs.

For the most part, its members will be Arizona business and community leaders.

The Governor of this State -- now and in the future -- must be engaged, and so, the Governor will be the chair.

The Senate President and House Speaker will be ex-officio members -- because our policy makers must be aware of the State's business needs.

Other ex-officio members will be:

- The presidents of Arizona's three state universities
- A representative from a community college
- The president of the Arizona Board of Regents
- And the chair of the Governor's Council on Workforce Policy.

My cabinet level jobs team will also be engaged and will serve as technical advisors to the Board.

Arizona has a history of completing economic strategies, and then when they become unfunded and unfocused, they collect dust on a shelf.

NOT this time.

NOT while I'm Governor.

Part of what has been a long-time problem is the revolving door on the Commerce Director's office.

Consider it gone.

We are going to hire a CEO to lead this new Economic Development Authority – and we're going to give them a contract. We must invest in leadership necessary to advance.

Don Cardon continues as a guiding light in this reform, and he remains a vital asset in the preservation of the mission that the agency was created to fulfill.

And, let me say that this historic vision -- that starts to become reality today when I sign this Executive Order -- would not have come true had it not been for Don Cardon.

The moment I appointed Don as Director of Commerce, he started to shake the place up.

He reorganized it, not simply as a result of budget implications, but, instead, in response to what this agency must be for Arizona.

He made it more credible with the business community, our local governments and the Legislature.

He made it more focused.

He made it more efficient, more aggressive, and, in the end, directed it toward a total transformation that we celebrate today.

This new authority will be focused on targeted industries – such as solar, science, technology and aerospace and defense.

Taking into consideration the diverse local and regional needs of each community, the Authority will implement strategies to ensure Arizona's communities are competitive in the global economy.

It is critical that we move at an aggressive pace, so I am directing the Authority to begin its work today.

I have scheduled our first board meeting on September 23rd and I'm directing Don Cardon and his team to work throughout the summer to draft and identify critical components of Arizona's strategy so the Board can immediately begin its work.

The statewide leaders on this Board will lead the state's economic development efforts – we must maximize their leadership and utilize their incredible expertise.

Don and his team will be reaching out to statewide partners to gather relevant information for the Board to consider as they address the following key components necessary to ensure Arizona is ready to compete:

First, a comprehensive economic and workforce development strategy to align the diverse assets and opportunities within the State to compete at the highest level in both domestic and international markets – including recommendations to improve Arizona's competitive environment.

And, second, conforming legislation that replaces the Arizona Department of Commerce and statutorily charges the Arizona Commerce Authority with leading the State's business development efforts as the new statewide economic development delivery structure to advance Arizona's global competitiveness.

Today sends a message to the world, Arizona is serious about business – Arizona is going to be even more aggressive and even more competitive.

We're focused on becoming the premier destination for business.

Companies who want a better place to live – a better operating environment – a better place to collaborate and grow – consider Arizona your home:

The light is on.

The door is open.

The welcome mat is out.

This new Authority is what Arizona has been missing. It is significant to our future, and critical to our economic advancement.

I do not think I overstate the importance of what is happening here today.

Our local world-class leaders are taking the reins, and guiding us into the 21st Century, as the Arizona Comeback continues to roar on.

And, now, I will sign the Executive Order.

I am honored to introduce our private-sector Vice-Chair, Jerry Colangelo.

Jerry's leadership has been instrumental in this effort since the beginning and I would like to personally thank him for his commitment and dedication to Arizona's future.

As his first official role as Vice-Chair, I have asked Jerry to join me in introducing the extraordinary leadership team that has been assembled to serve as Board of Directors for the Arizona Commerce Authority. Other members may be added as we move forward.

At a time when budgets are tight and funding limited – we must invest in this effort.

You might recall that in my State of the State address in January, I announced I was devoting \$10 million in one-time federal stimulus funds for job training.

Since becoming Governor, I have assisted in attracting more than 2,500 high-value jobs to Arizona and over \$1.1 billion in new capital investment.

Well, today, I am investing an ADDITIONAL \$10 million of stimulus funds for economic development to ensure the Authority has the right tools in the tool box – to meet the expectations of every part of Arizona.

I am directing that a portion of those funds be directed solely to rural Arizona.

The emphasis will be to:

- Attract promising enterprises that create quality jobs
- Help Arizona entrepreneurs achieve great success – to grow here at home and create even more jobs.
- And identify economic development to address and to advance the rural communities across our entire state.

I'll be announcing more on this approach within the next few weeks; including the creation of a rural development advisory council.

So, at this time, I'd like to present this check for Arizona's Future – an investment to insure Arizona competes globally and WINS. Don and Jerry, this is a day that Arizona will long remember.